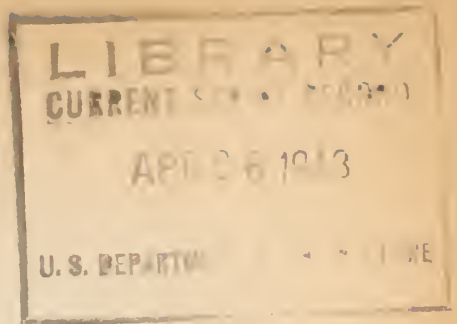


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ORNAMENTAL AMERICAN SHRUBS.

By William Richard Van Dersal
Oxford University Press, 1942.

Reviewed by Mr. A. E. Borell
Chief, Regional Biology Division
Soil Conservation Service

In his book ORNAMENTAL AMERICAN SHRUBS, Mr. Van Dersal does not attempt to plead for the use of native plants to the exclusion of exotics, but he does call the reader's attention to the wealth and virtues of native American shrubs and the esteem other countries have for our shrubs. He does not say that native shrubs are superior to all others for American gardens, but he does say that there are a number of superior native shrubs which deserve far more attention than has been given them by American gardeners.

The introductory chapters dealing with early botanical explorations and the exportation and use of American plants in other countries, especially England, provides informative and interesting reading.

In another chapter, the author calls our attention to the great number of horticultural varieties and improved strains which have been developed from foreign shrubs, and discusses the small amount of horticultural attention which has been given to American shrubs.

The author, formerly Chief of the Biology Division of the Soil Conservation Service, previously wrote NATIVE WOODY PLANTS OF THE UNITED STATES, which is now a standard reference for all who work with native plants.

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